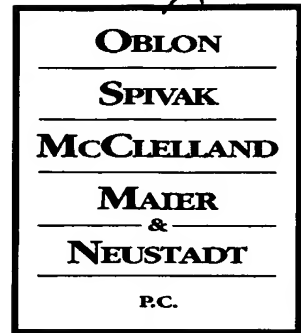




Docket No.: 240901US2X

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY J. MAIER
(703) 413-3000
GMAIER@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/626,603
Applicants: Takashi HONDA, et al.
Filing Date: July 25, 2003
For: MAGNETIC HEAD APPARATUS, MAGNETIC
HEAD SUPPORTING MECHANISM AND
MAGNETIC RECORDING APPARATUS
Group Art Unit: 2627
Examiner: MILLER, BRIAN E.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

ELECTION

Our credit card payment form in the amount of **\$0.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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DOCKET NO: 240901US2X

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKASHI HONDA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MILLER, BRIAN E
SERIAL NO: 10/626,603 :
FILED: JULY 25, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2627
FOR: MAGNETIC HEAD APPARATUS, :
MAGNETIC HEAD SUPPORTING
MECHANISM AND MAGNETIC
RECORDING APPARATUS

ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election requirement of April 18, 2006, Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group 1 (Figures 1-2). Claims 8, 9 and 11 are readable on the elected species.

Applicants traverse the outstanding election requirement on the grounds that it has not been established that it be an undue burden to examine each of the noted inventions and claims together.

Under M.P.E.P. § 803, an election is not proper if a search and examination can be made without a serious burden on the Examiner, and the outstanding election requirement has not established that examining each of the currently-pending claims together would result in an undue burden.

M.P.E.P. § 803 specifically states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

The outstanding election requirement has not established that each of the claims could not be examined without an undue burden. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that full examination on the merits be conducted.


Respectfully submitted,

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